missing person after expiry of a period of 7 years following the month of his disappearance provided the claimants produce a proper and indisputable proof of death or a decree of the Court that the employee concerned should be presumed to be dead as laid down in Section 108 of the Indian Evidence Act.

Merger of ICICI with ICICI Bank

2934. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1543 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th December, 2001 and state:

(a) the reasons and circumstances necessitating and warranting the merger of ICICI with ICICI Banks; and

(b) how this merger is likely to effect the interest of the investors and common depositers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) ICICI Bank has submitted a proposal to RBI on 25th October, 2001 for merger of ICICI with it. The main objective of the merger is to remain competitive in the market. RBI would consider the merger proposal on merit for taking a final decision.

Impact of terrorist attack in US on Indian Economy

† 2935. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "America per Aatankwadi Hamlay Nay Vikassheel Deshon Main Gareebee Badhai" which appeared in "Hindustan", dated the 20th November, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of effects of terrorist attack on the Indian Economy?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.